

REMARKS

The office action of June 30, 2005, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Apuzzo in view of the patent to Muirhead.

Applicant has added new dependent claim 14.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Apuzzo, it can be seen that this patent discloses a press for pulverulent materials. The bars A1 and A2 of Apuzzo are not rams, but instead are cores, as indicated at column 3, line 30. The bores exert no pressure. Their purpose is only for filling a space. Fig. 2A shows the filling position (See column 3, lines 38 and 39). In this position the cores A1, A2 are pushed forward to the uppermost end of the cavity C. The mass is thus only filled in

around the cores A1, A2. During pressing the cores A1, A2 remain still. They are located in corresponding hollow upper rams. Apuzzo does not disclose or suggest a construction having a segment ram integrated in at least one of the lower ram and the upper ram, wherein the segment ram has ram segments having essentially the same cross-sectional shape as the webs, as in the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, Apuzzo does not teach a removable core insertable into the press mold, which removable core has the core segments for forming the cavities, wherein spaces between the core segments in the press mold are arranged congruently with the ram segments, as in the present invention.

The patent to Muirhead discloses a triple sheet thermoforming apparatus. The rigid member 27 is not a form core for forming hollow cavities that must be destroyed after hardening of the molded article. The rigid member 27 remains in the completed product in order to increase the strength of the article. For this reason the element is not called a "core" but instead a "rigid member" (see column 16, lines 15, 24-27 and 41-42 of Muirhead).

The rigid member 27 does not have any hollow cavities that are to cooperate with ram segments. 44a is only one deep draw

part of the form corresponding to the rigid member 27.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 1-4 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation provided in either of the references to make the combination suggested by the Examiner. Neither of these references, nor their combination, teach equipment for producing a molded article as discussed previously and as recited in the presently claimed invention. Although Apuzzo has a lower ram P1 in which a further lower ram P2 can slide, and a an upper ram S2 in which a further upper ram S2 can slide, these have the purpose of forming different surfaces on the molded article than the lower ram P1 and the upper ram S1. Therefore, P2 and S2 have different end positions than P1 and S1. This is different than the construction of the presently claimed invention with a segmented ram.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are

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respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

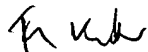
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 31, 2005.

By: 

Friedrich Kueffner

Date: October 31, 2005